



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Keep Akron Beautiful's Paula Davis Wins National Award**

Akron, Ohio (February 1, 2013) – Last week, Paula Davis, President and CEO of Keep Akron Beautiful (KAB), received the *Sue Smith Professional Leadership Award* from Keep America Beautiful, in Washington, D.C. This prestigious award is named for the recently-retired Director of Education and Affiliate Trainer for Keep America Beautiful. It honors Affiliate Executive Directors who have built and sustained a local or state affiliate program with exceptional success.

“Davis is certainly well-deserving of this award, and we are proud of her accomplishments,” said Mayor Don Plusquellic. “Under Paula’s leadership, KAB’s staff and board have initiated many creative and effective programs, such as the annual *Clean Up Akron Week* throughout the City; the *Beautification Watch Program*, that recognizes homeowners, institutions and businesses for well-maintained, litter-free properties; the promotion of recycling programs in the Akron Public Schools; the *Graffiti Wipeout Crew*; and, and the *Adopt-a-Site Flowerscape*’s beautiful gardens located in all ten City wards. The Flowerscapes are especially beloved by residents and visitors alike, and the program is considered a model program nationwide.”

Paula Davis has been the President and CEO of Keep Akron Beautiful (KAB) since October, 1989. KAB is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the City of Akron's quality of life through beautification and responsible environmental management. Since 2003, KAB has received a yearly President's Circle Award from Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

In 2007, the Mayor of Akron launched the new *Green Print for Akron*, that included a two-part local sustainability and climate action plan developed in partnership with KAB. The plan targeted the most cost-effective initiatives to help the City and community reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Paula led the KAB's efforts to implement the plan, and the results have been impressive. The City's most recent Greenhouse Gas Emissions Survey indicated a 13% reduction in government emissions from 2005 to 2009, well ahead of the plan for a 5% reduction by 2013.

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